Cold Crisis
while on this ferris wheel
by Inrealdude

Cold Crisis, While on This Ferris Wheel

It's not been long at all.

But freedom... freedom was nice.

Bracelety had forgotten, once more, what it felt like to be roaming out there. For the longest time she was relegated to staying inside crammed-up metal boxes, or classrooms with people she had to get along with eventually. Then again, Bracelety had a hard time getting along with anybody, really, and it's not like she could blame it on anyone but herself.

But she didn't care, or at least she pretended not to, or perhaps she even forgot *how* to care in the first place, it's the kind of things one needs to do to keep yourself sane and ready to go at it.

That didn't really matter though, the important part for Bracelety is that, when she and the others fled the EXIT and Four stopped being possessive of them, the dream of getting to see Ice Cube again seemed more real than ever.

Many of the other EXITors seemed contempt settling down in wherever they had spawned, apparently many things went on in the time period they were captured for, including some sort of split and even a location change far away from Goiky.

Bracelety had other plans though, as soon as she had the chance, she asked one of the former contestants how to get to Goiky.

"Across the hills, past the rocky mountains! I'm not completely willing to give you my dear ally's SuperVan though, sorry!"

"Uh... Fine! I can walk over there!" Bracelety replied.

Stapy on the other hand, who was by her, had second thoughts, "Uh... Not so sure anymore... How far is it?"

Ruby pondered, placing her hand in her chin, "It wasn't that long of a ride when we went over there... I reckon you should get there by night time"

Stapy sighed, "Oh man... That's so much hopping"

"You can do whatever you want Stapy! I'm going!" Bracelety began to storm away, "Thank you Ruby!"

"No problem, whoever you are!" Ruby told her as she saw Bracelety take her leave, completely unfamiliar with the fangirl despite them competing in the same show. Stapy glanced behind him and then back at Ruby, "I uh, thank you!" he said before deciding to follow Bracelety home.

"*Kinda* problem, but you're welcome, good luck!" Ruby said as she waved at the two as they took their leave.

Stapy caught up to Bracelety as they walked towards the hills of The Pillary Ruins, the two would occasionally share chatter, but it was mostly silence as they made their way towards Goiky, where they assumed the other show they had heard of would be taking place in. As the sun flew closer to the horizon, Stapy couldn't help but notice that, despite the amount of time they had walked for and the distance traveled, Bracelety looked just as determined and cheerful as she was when they took off.

He panted, his hops getting weaker, no matter how strong his motivation to see Foldy again was, the physical strain eventually catches up to one, "How... *huff,* how come you're not tired?" he asks while glancing to his side, "Tired?" The silicone girl replied with another question, "I FEEL GREAT!"

Stapy looked startled by her smile, who shined bright despite the moon's reflection being the only source of light, "Great, you say?" he keeps questioning, "YEAH! I'm- I'm gonna get to see ICY again! Unless she's eliminated... b- but that won't happen because she's TOO AWESOME to be eliminated! She's got it in the bag!"

Stapy sighs, tired, he engages further, "I get your excitement but... we've been walking and climbing hills for hours..."

"THE MORE WE WALK THE MORE EXCITED I GET! YEAH!!" Bracelety shouted as she grabbed onto the rocky hill below them with both her arms, slowly climbing it, it wasn't nearly as steep as others they had passed by so far.

Stapy grabbed onto the hill and started to push himself forwards as well, "W- Why even... Why even Ice Cube anyways..." he asked as they both climbed, "WHY Ice Cube!? Because she's AWESOME!!" she exclaimed, "You've asked me this before! I thought I had made it pretty clear!"

"Yeah, yeah, but... *why* is she awesome to you?" Stapy asked, curious. Bracelety gasped, "It OFFENDS me that you have to ask that question!"

"I wanna hear your thorough breakdown, gotta hear it from the Ice Cube expert in the flesh, you know?" Stapy told her, somewhat jokingly.

Bracelety paused her climbing motions and gazed at the starry night sky for a while, reflecting not only on the question, but on her idol. It's not often she had to remind herself why she got so attached to her, it's a feeling that's hard, if not impossible, to put into words. "W-Well..." another pause filled in the gap, "...She's timid, but brave when the situation calls for it"

"Uh-huh..."

"She's... clever, she's heroic, she's... perfect! She can stand up to herself and stare right at destiny's eyes, even if destiny has it out against her, she FIGHTS destiny and then she BEATS it!" Bracelety raised her fist up in the air as she rambled, "She's everything I've ever aspired to be!"

"Do you think destiny... has it out for her?" Stapy questioned, "I mean, I don't know her well so-"

"DEFINITELY!" Bracelety interrupts him, leaning towards him

aggressively, "Do you KNOW who's got the most deaths in BFDI history!?"

"Is it not Bubble?" Stapy asks before pushing himself a bit further up the rocky hill, groaning in the process. "NO!" Bracelety quickly corrected him, "It's her! To the hands of a so-called prank, she died and revived in a loop for a month straight!"

"Oh... Liy would hate that-"

"BUT THAT'S NOT ALL!" Bracelety interrupts yet again, "She's been mistreated by her peers for long! Pencil, Match, Pin, Leafy... the universe won't stop throwing punches her way, and yet... THERE SHE STANDS! Resilient! I admire her! ...I think she deserves more admiration, she DESERVES to know she's doing great! She deserves someone that can tell her that! That won't treat her badly for once..."

Stapy couldn't help but draw some parallels, "...At least she wasn't trapped in a tiny algebra classroom for who knows how long..." he said. Bracelety remained silent at his response, resuming her climbing efforts. Her hitchhiking partner kept talking, "I don't know man, doesn't seem like nearly good enough of a reason to not being physically able to stop talking about her" he expressed his opinion.

Bracelety glanced at him, "What do you mean? How is it not?"

"You don't understand Bracelety" Stapy looked back at her, "Your EXISTENCE is Ice Cube! You should've heard how much you talked about her down in the EXIT for all those years!" he argued, before mocking her demeanor "Oh Ice Cube this! Oh Ice Cube That! Ice Cube is awesome! Did you know Ice Cube won BFDIA 6 all by herself? I love Ice Cube so much my bones hurt!"

"H- HEY!"

"What, am I wrong?" Stapy asked. Bracelety simply looked forwards and continued climbing over the hill, choosing not to engage, but Stapy pressed on, "She won't even acknowledge you! I think you should start considering trying to find who you are instead of basing your entire being on someone who doesn't even-"

"Don't say that as if I haven't heard it before" Bracelety interrupted him in a strangely assertive tone for someone like her, "As a matter of fact, stop talking"

Stapy looked a bit taken back by her sudden attitude, uncharacteristic of her, and decided to not talk any further.

The pair continued to climb in awkward silence until they got over the rocky hill, which happened to be the last one before finally reaching Goiky's grasslands.

"W- WE'RE HERE!" Bracelety exclaimed as she saw the open land beyond them, the plains and the bushes.

Stapy looked around in awe, but confused as well, "Is... Is it me or is the grass yellow?"

"I don't know and I DON'T CARE!"

Stapy chuckled before observing the landscape, "...Hey, what's that over there?" He asked, pointing at a spot in the plains that from afar seemed to be an amusement park, its attractions lit up by hundreds of flashing lights, all surrounded by a long metal fence. Bracelety glanced the way his finger pointed at, it looked pretty and full of life, so full, in fact, she couldn't help but wonder if, perhaps...

"...You think Icy's there?" Bracelety asked him. Stapy scoffed in response and talked back, "Well Ringlety, only one way to find out-"

In a swift swoop, Bracelety got to her knees and promptly started rolling down the small rock hill, as she began to pass through yellow grass she got up and started sprinting towards the park at full speed. Stapy began to follow her more carefully, with absolutely no chance at catching up to her.

Bracelety's smile only widened as she got closer to her destination, she spotted her, peacefully sitting by herself in one of the illuminated Ferris wheel's seats. "OH MY GRIP! ICE CUBE!!" she shouted from way afar, and yet, her voice was so loud her idol managed to hear it across the airwaves.

Ice Cube felt her heart skip a beat as her seat peaked, but she did her

best to not tilt her head towards the source of the noise. Was she imagining things?

"ICE CUBE! I MISSED YOU!!"

No, that one was louder, it truly was her... but how? Had she and the rest been freed? Whatever it was, she was not expecting it. It had been three years since the last time she had heard that raspy voice.

"I LOVE YOU!!"

It's weird, Ice Cube couldn't help but feel happy hearing her again, emotional and nostalgic, even. She always thought it'd be a bad idea to speak to her directly, like she was some sort of unpredictable bag of craziness... which she was. However, it did not matter how much her consciousness tried to speak against it, her heart spoke dissonant to her logic.

Bracelety ran closer and closer to the park's entrance, *"OHHH MY GRIP! AND YOU'RE NOT ELIMINATED! I'M PROUD OF YOU!"*

Truth was that, deep inside, Ice Cube enjoyed hearing Bracelety when they first met in yoyle city, she enjoyed Bracelety throught life back at Goiky, she enjoyed the brief period they competed in BFB and, most importantly, she felt sad when she got eliminated, and guilt when she didn't help her in her attempt to escape Four, right before the split.

Yet, despite that, she couldn't get herself to acknowledge her, and at that point, she didn't know if it was to avoid interacting with a seemingly obsessive fan as she had convinced herself, or out of fear she wouldn't ever meet the expectations Bracelety set up in her mind.

The whole ordeal is what Ice Cube reflected upon as she saw Bracelety sneak into the theme park out of the corner of her eye, of course, refusing to look at her.

Bracelety slowed down as she approached the entrance, she looked at the scenery in awe before directing her eyes towards a huge sign standing right in front of her.

A-Twos-ment Park

GRAND OPENING!
Free rides for TPOT contestants

"Woah..." Bracelety said to herself as she glanced over at the many attractions, each filled to the brim with pretty lights, the air filled with screams and laughter.

She spotted a crazy looking roller coaster with a team worth of contestants riding it, a crappy-looking trampoline with a few people hopping on it, what she assumed to be a pile of garbage, a humble carnival game that Teardrop seemed to be running with a rather small queue behind it, a stage with some kind of competition happening on it, a pink food stand, and a red block hanging from other glued-together red blocks, which Grassy punched repeatedly like a true professional.

And, of course, a big Ferris wheel, which seemed more polished than the other attractions.

She didn't know why, but she shyly approached it and got in the queue right behind Coiny and Pin, who seemed to be chatting with each other. Her eyes laser focused on Ice Cube, who was more or less two thirds of the way to the ground.

As the queue shrunk in length, the two contestants in front of the silicone girl noticed her presence, looking surprised, they started whispering to one another about her, the fate of the other EXITors and, of course, the fact that Ice Cube was on the Ferris wheel. They attempted to not alert Bracelety of their gossip, but she wasn't stupid, she simply decided not to talk to them, after all, she had more important things to think about in that moment.

"Woah, hold on" Two, who seemed to be taking care of the attraction, noticed the girl as she approached the front of the line, "I... You're not one of my contestants... and if you saw the sign at the entrance you'd know that... uh... who *are* you, actually?"

Bracelety glanced over at the host, *"Uh oh... a- another number?"* she thought, growing a bit terrified, she found herself unable to answer. Two raised an eyebrow and pressed on, "...Are you a recommended character...? No... I don't remember you"

"Uh, um..." Bracelety was scared to respond, afraid for her freedom, she of course immediately associated the unknown face with the other algebralien she knew about.

"Oh my SAP! is that Bracelety!?" She and the entire queue suddenly heard from the side. Bracelety turned to look at Barf Bag and Donut, the former holding some cotton candy in her right hand, both their mouths hung open in surprise.

"O- Oh, Barf Bag!" Bracelety smiled through her fear. Her former teammate sprinted towards her and gestured for a high-five, which Bracelety gladly reciprocated, "Where have you and the other eliminated contestants been? Or hell, ANY of the BFB contestants at all! We haven't seen them! Except for Teardrop over there-"

"Hey, sorry to interrupt" Two paused the queue to approach the two former Team Ice Cube members, "You know this person, Barfy?"

"Yeah! She's a contestant that got eliminated way before you showed up" Barf Bag replied, Two slowly nodded and responded, "Oooooh, that makes a lot of sense, well, greetings to you, um... Ringy?"

"B- Bracelety" The silicone girl clarified, still a bit terrified by the presence of the number.

"Bracelety, yes, of course! My name is Two" Two gave her a reassuring smile, "Just so you know if you do wanna get on this ride you're gonna have to pay up, since you're not really a TPOT contestant, so..."

"Oh! Uh..." Bracelety shifted her gaze around, then lifted the guy right in front of her as if he was made of paper. "H- Hey! Put me down!" Coiny exclaimed, kicking his feet around.

Two looked a bit weirded out, "It's a bit more expensive than one cent you know... a thousand bucks to be exact" they clarified.

"A THOUSAND!? THAT'S SO MUCH!"

"Huh? Considering the hyperinflation caused by people using boxes of paper slips to magically create money and all, I think that's pretty average, if not below!"

Bracelety sighed and put the coin back down on the floor, both him and Pin quickly walked forwards into the attraction and seated themselves, chatting among themselves as they did so.

Bracelety spotted Ice Cube riding the wheel on the seat right behind the W.O.A.H bunchers and gasped, then turned back to Two, "I- I don't have money! Could I please?"

"Hold on now" Barf Bag sprinted back towards Donut, who she shared some chatter with before sprinting back to Bracelety and handing her ten 100 goikyan dollar bills, "Here, I was gonna get more snacks, but I think you should take it"

Bracelety took it with a huge smile on her face, "O- OH MY GRIP! THANK YOU!"

"I've heard rumors that you and the others were taken to a crummy classroom and were damned to do algebra all day... I think saying 'no problem' would be underselling it, go enjoy the ride" Barf Bag put her hands on her hips and smiled at the girl.

Bracelety smiled too, despite the years it was reassuring to see Barf Bag as caring as she used to be, if she were ever to make a real friendship, Barf Bag was a top pick for sure. Bracelety then promptly handed the bills to the number, for she was in front of the line.

Two laughed softly before taking it, "Alright, alright, enjoy!" They told her. Bracelety smiled and sprinted towards the empty seat, the one behind her idol, before it took off.

She stimmed and kicked her feet excitedly as hers and Ice Cube's seat slowly lifted into the air. It was painfully slow, but she enjoyed every second of it, it felt freeing, just like that long walk home that Stapy didn't seem to be a big fan of, that and this ride were probably the two most exciting things she's done in years, and on top of that, she could even see a bit of Ice Cube's cube-head from her seat.

But as the ride went on and the ground's voices got softer as she ascended, she slowly started to reflect why she even got up there in the first place. Sure, it was nice, but nothing exactly prompted her to take that ride, she just saw where Ice Cube was and headed straight

towards it. She could've stayed outside, she'd get a better perspective of her idol from down below anyways.

And yet, she didn't *really* want to stay down there.

As the ride went on, Bracelety calmly glanced at the landscape, the moonshine, and the park below, where she spotted a familiar face. Stapy and Foldy got in the queue to the very ride she was on, deeply indulging in conversation, she started at them for a good while.

She kept looking around her surroundings and saw some of the wheel's seats below her, seeing two faces she wasn't too familiar with; those of Saw and Gaty, all she knew about them is that they're from the same team Ice Cube was. The two chatted with each other as well, but soon enough their mouths stopped moving, they simply looked into the vast night, she could tell from that distance that their silence wasn't an awkward one, but rather serene. She saw the former lean into Gaty before the perspective precluded her from watching.

Bracelety then stared at the horizon, a gentle breeze hitting her face as the wheel had spun nearly half of the way there, perhaps a bit reflective, nearly everyone she saw on this wheel got up with someone else... all but one.

Almost foolishly, she stood up while as her seat moved backwards, and looked to the seat behind her, the one Ice Cube sat upon, and stared at her. She was glancing at the grasslands.

In any normal situation she'd be hyperactive and cheerful without a care, she'd be calling her name and shouting nice and encouraging things. But in this occasion, as she looked at her idol sit there alone, with the perfectly cold gentle breeze, the low laughter coming from the rest of the theme park, knowing that nobody else was watching, or that the attraction they were on was typically romanticized... she instead stood quiet, gazing at her in pure admiration, infatuation, and perhaps even something more that she didn't realize until seconds after.

Ice Cube, unintentionally, glanced away from Goiky's plains and into Bracelety's eyes, her eyes widening upon realizing Bracelety was looking at her in silence.

The fangirl's heart stopped as their gazes met, she quickly realized and sat back down on her seat.

She quickly noticed her breathing was heavier, her face warmer, and her heart faster, more so than any other time she thought about her idol. That wasn't normal.

Ice Cube was hard pressed to even look at her, never mind eye contact, so that second, which felt like the longest second of her life, caught her off guard. She tried to brush aside the fluttery feeling present in her after the exchange, but her mind couldn't help but wander off.

She looked at the ground and started imagining herself in the spots her peers stood on. She imagined herself buying two cotton candies and sharing one of them with Ice Cube. She imagined herself holding Ice Cube tight as the roller coaster spun uncontrollably, scared yet comforted. She imagined Ice Cube knocking all of the cubes in the carnival game down and herself cheering her on as Teardrop reluctantly gifted them their prize...

She then looked at her side, where a large empty spot stood, and fantasized herself being right next to her idol. She fantasized them having a one-on-one conversation, she fantasized them staring off into the night sky in a serene silence, she fantasized the two of them sharing laughter, she fantasized wrapping her arms around her simultaneously cold and warm body, she fantasized how...

"...What am I thinking?" she whispered to herself, questioning her strange thoughts, it's not something she had ever envisioned, at least not to this degree, she was frightened by her mind and the whole prospect.

Before she knew it, she was already near the floor, not able to afford a second spin around the Ferris wheel.

"Alrighty Bracelety, hope you had fun!" Two looked at her as she approached the floor in her seat. Bracelety looked bummed out, "I- I don't want to go!"

"Well it'll be a thousand more bucks then" Two told her, shrugging.

Bracelety looked disappointed, "B- But-" she tried to argue, not finding the correct words, "Y- You don't get it, You want to know for how long I've been stuck in the EXIT for!? Let me have some FUN!"

Ice Cube heard the two go back and forth briefly as she stepped out of her seat and into the floor, even if she pretended not to listen. Her cheeks fancying a deeper tone of her usual baby blue.

That gaze she and Bracelety exchanged was mortal, she was in denial as to how it made her feel, the fact that she didn't say a word and turned right back was strange and new to her, Bracelety was hard-pressed to be ashamed or embarrassed by anything she did, so to see her shocked and reluctant for once made her feel...

...

...The hell with it, if there was any moment to finally let the heart take the initiative, it was this one.

"...How about..." Ice Cube spoke up, interrupting Bracelety and Two, "Instead... we take the ride together, Two?"

Bracelety's jaw dropped, her cheeks darkening before covering her face with her arms. Two on the other hand raised an eyebrow, "What do you mean? You can go in free but Bracelety will have to pay"

"Why? We'll take the same amount of space that I was already taking by myself, won't we? It won't hurt whatsoever" she argued, "Come on Two..."

"Hm, I guess when you put it like that..." Two took their index and the thumb to their chin, thinking as Bracelety felt her heart rate get even faster, it felt like a dream, she would've been contempt to end that day off merely seeing Ice Cube again, maybe lend her a letter, let alone this.

Two looked back at Ice Cube, who looked as determined as she seemed, then sighed briefly, "I guess you're right... okay, I'll allow it"

Ice Cube gasped and smiled before turning around to see the Ferris wheel, specifically, the seat Bracelety sat upon. Her fan covered most of her face with her hands, yet silently nodded at Ice Cube, signaling

her to come over and take a seat in the empty spot next to her. Ice Cube, getting flustered again, walked over and jumped towards the open gondola before it lift off too far into the air.

Two looked at them with a smile before turning back towards the queue, "You, however, you'll have to pay!"

"Aw man..." Stapy replied, looking at Foldy, who rolled her eyes before taking a wallet out.

And so, the idol and the fan finally found themselves in the same seat as the wheel slowly rotated forwards. The two didn't dare to look at each other just yet, but rather let the fact that it was happening at all wash over them.

The idol, fittingly, finally broke the ice, "...W- Well" she nervously looked at her fan, "...Hello"

Bracelety reluctantly took her hands off her face, not being able to shake off the thoughts from earlier, "...H- Hi" she replied, smiling, their first ever interaction.

Ice Cube giggled and smiled back, her being so quiet and vulnerable only made her blush further, "...Nice to meet you"

Bracelety squealed a bit, "I'm... I'm a big fan!"

"I know..." Ice Cube replied.

Bracelety nervously twiddled her fingers and glanced to her side, not quite ready to get to any cut-throat conversation, she did her best to accommodate to her idol, "I- S- Sorry I'm quite nervous! I'm... I'm so excited to meet you, that's all..."

"Oh don't worry!" Ice Cube replied, she didn't want to admit she was nervous as well, even if it was obvious. Bracelety continued, calming down a bit "I- I've always wanted to talk to you! This... This is a DREAM COME TRUE!!"

There it is, that's the loud fan she knew, Ice Cube chuckled, it was a reassuring listen. Bracelety went on, "O-M-G! I'm ACTUALLY talking to Ice Cube! I- I've been such a HUGE fan!! I'm soo sorry if I've ever

bothered you I just wanted to let you know you'resuperawesomeand-"

"Woah woah woah, calm down!" Ice Cube told her with a friendly smile. Bracelety was hyperventilating at that point, she did her best to calm down as Ice Cube continued, "A- And by the way... No you've never bothered me"

"R- Really!?"

"No, r- really..."

"... Then... why did you never talk to me before?"

Ice Cube fell into silence, her smile wiped right off her face, she struggled to find the words to answer without hurting her feelings. "...Y- Sorry! You don't have to a- answer that!" Bracelety told her as she noticed the silence drag on a bit too much.

Ice Cube sighed in relief, but the awkward silence continued.

Bracelety, noticing the fact, attempted to push the conversation forwards, "Um... W- Why did you... You let me, like, ride the Ferris Wheel with you. Why?" she asked, curious.

"W- Well, you know..." Ice Cube wandered her eyes towards the view below them, "Just saw you managed to come back after that long... and I felt bad..."

"You... felt bad?"

"Y- Yeah! You know... for how long you've been in who knows where... where... *where* have you been, actually?"

"...You... *want* to know that?" Bracelety questioned, surprised by how invested her idol seemed in her well-being, it always had been the other way around after all.

"...Yeah" Ice Cube responded.

Bracelety giggled, before getting serious again, "...Well... I and the other eliminated contestants were trapped inside a classroom, and we had to do all of this math work I didn't really understand... and it was

suffocating... and Four kept screeching at us for doing our things wrong..."

"Woah, that's..." Ice Cube pondered before continuing, "...I feel sorry for you... are you okay?" she asked. Ironically enough, the icy contestant's tender and caring words melted Bracelety's heart at an alarming rate, she felt like she could break down on the spot.

"...Bracelety?" Ice Cube said, a bit worried about her reaction. The fangirl sniffed as her eyes progressively got more watery, shaky, she replied, "...I'm f- fine..."

"Are you sure?" Ice Cube asked again.

"...C- Couldn't be better" Bracelety told her before sniffing again, tears streaming down from her eyes all the way down her small body.

After a bit of silence, Bracelety turned around and rummaged around in her belongings, taking out quite the bit of stuff, the top picks out of the works she wrote and drew for her idol during her time in the EXIT, handing them all to Ice Cube. The latter struggled as the breeze blew on the photo-realistic lined papers she had taken out, but she sifted through her crude drawings and signs, smile slowly dropping, but never completely fading.

Ice Cube sighed, "...Remember that question you asked earlier?" she asked. Bracelety raised an eyebrow, "...W- Why you hadn't talked to me?" she asked, her idol silently nodded before continuing, "Yes, well... let me ask a question to your question...

...why me?"

Bracelety raised an eyebrow, "Why you...?"

"...Yes, why are you all about... *me?*"

It was a question Bracelety had been asked hundreds of times before, even once as she made her way over here, but hearing it from Ice Cube herself hit her like a ton of bricks, then another ton on top of that. She felt a deep sadness as she sensed her ask the question as if she didn't believe all the praise she's received was without merit.

Bracelety pondered for a bit, then replied while glancing at the landscape, "...You're quiet, yet brave when necessary, smart, clever, a true problem solver, heroic... and most importantly, a warrior" she explained. Ice Cube found the praise very flattering, but she couldn't get herself to believe it, "I... I don't really see what you mean"

"Y- You don't?" Bracelety asked, looking back at her, frown drawn across her face. "No..." Ice Cube replied, gazing at the grassy lands herself, "I'm just... a girl trying to make her way through, despite the difficulties-"

"Me too!"

Ice Cube glanced back at Bracelety as she spoke over her.

"...W- With much less success, of course..." Bracelety said, instinctively bringing her knees closer together, "I... I've never been able to fight destiny the same way you have, never got anywhere, never did anything or inspired anyone, never was able to stand up for myself the way you do!"

Ice Cube frowned as she heard her, raising an eyebrow in worry.

"You've always been a huge inspiration to me!" Bracelety continued, smiling in the process, "You're PERFECT! You're my GUIDING LIGHT! YOU'RE-"

"I'M **NOT** PERFECT!"

Ice Cube shouted with her usually soft voice, paralyzing Bracelety in the middle of her rambling. Ice Cube sighed before speaking up once more, "I'm not perfect, and it took me years to develop my... autonomy, I guess-"

"How could you say that!?" Bracelety questioned her, feeling like her world was turning upside down.

Ice Cube looked at her, "I'm not perfect because no one is, and on that note... it still doesn't explain *you*"

"What... do you mean?"

Ice Cube's logical side took control of her, "All I know about you is that you're obsessed with me... I don't care how you justify it, It's still... it feels unhealthy"

Bracelety looked worried, "...Unhealthy?"

"Yes"

"B- But... I don't know who I am without you!"

"Exactly" Ice Cube replied coldly, she might as well have stabbed her with a dagger.

The fangirl sat on that thought, her eyes shifting downwards. Ice Cube pressed on, "You can't dedicate your existence to someone else... That's just not sustainable"

Bracelety frowned as she looked down, "...so wise..." she said, sighing.

"It's just common sense" Ice Cube attempted to water down the compliment, "You don't know who you are without me? That's an issue. What if I didn't reciprocate, or I felt uncomfortable with the praise, or was afraid of not meeting those expectations you set up for me?"

Bracelety pondered in silence, then looked back at her idol, "...Is... Is that why you've never talked to me?"

Ice Cube frowned and shyly shifted her gaze to the side.

The two stood in silence for a while, Bracelety looked back down, a bit dejected as a result of the exchange. The silence between was deafening.

Eventually, Bracelety flexed her legs and wrapped her arms around her knees, still looking at the landscape. She felt like she had to explain herself, "...It's not like... It's not like I've ever cared if you acknowledge me or not..."

"...Sure sounds like you do though" Ice Cube replied, still looking down.

Bracelety scoffed, and replied after a long pause, "I- I never meant to... make you feel bad a- about..." she struggled to continue speaking, choking on her words, "I- I just... Always thought y- y- you deserved the p- praise..."

Ice Cube looked back at her, seeing her so distraught broke her, it's not a side of her that she's ever seen before, and she caused it. Bracelety herself felt embarrassed to feel like that, she thought she had learned how to make that feeling of distinct sadness and disorientation go away.

Silence ensured, and as the seat got closer to the ground, Bracelety strongly considered waving her idol goodbye and walk off the thing, maybe go hide somewhere, she wasn't sure.

"...Hey" Ice Cube finally spoke up, they looked at each other, "L- Let's think for a little bit, identity, identity... hm, is there anything you like besides... me?"

"Anything I like besides you...?" Bracelety sat on the thought, her eyes were watery again, "Well... I love... games"

"Uh-huh..."

"And... grotesque typefaces"

"Weirdly specific, but fair..."

"And..." Bracelety struggled to think of anything, "...I... like drawing? But I mostly draw you so..."

Ice Cube thought that was adorable, but she tried to tone down her smile.

"I also..." Bracelety thought hard, she looked back at the park, which started to distance itself as the wheel went for another round, "I also... Well, I appreciate Barf Bag!"

"Barf Bag?" Ice Cube asked, inviting her to enquire.

"Yeah..." Bracelety smiled, "She gave me some money that allowed me to take a ride on this wheel, which... I also like!"

Ice Cube smiled, "Really?" she asked, pretending to not know that.

"Yeah!" Bracelety continued, "And she was always very nice with me when we were in Team Ice Cube even if I was weird!"

Hearing Bracelety speak of someone else so positively felt like a breath of fresh air, "That's so nice!" Ice Cube's smile widened, "Any other people you've met?"

"I've met some in the EXIT!" Bracelety smiled back and kept rambling, "Leafy was always soo nice in the EXIT... *too* nice, actually"

Ice Cube chuckled, she could relate, "A- And?"

"And there was Pencil and Liy too... we were one crazy unconventional friend group huh! Even if they didn't share my passion"

Ice Cube looked back at the view in front of them, "Hm, guess you have a bit more going on than it seems"

Bracelety hung her mouth open and then smiled, "I... I guess I do!" she said excitedly, looking at the lands of Goiky as well while their seat slowly rose up. Silence reigned between the two once more, only difference being that they seemed to be fine with it on this opportunity.

As the positive interaction cleared the angst, that fluttery feeling came back to haunt the two soon enough.

Ice Cube felt her heart slowly start to speak more and more loudly inside her, the part of her that unashamedly yet silently adored everything Bracelety did for her, until she let it come out once again, "...A- And... I- If it makes you feel better..." she began to speak, Bracelety turned to look at her.

Ice Cube shifted her gaze towards Bracelety, a bit nervous, "...I- Even if it makes me a bit uncomfortable... I do like when you cheer for me..." Ice Cube confessed.

Bracelety gasped, "R- Really?"

"...Y- Yeah..." Ice Cube shyly looked slightly to her right, "It's... It helped"

"IT HAS!?" Bracelety asked in disbelief, placing her hands in front of her mouth.

Ice Cube nodded, smiling wide, "It always made me feel... good... like someone out there got my back"

"I DO GOT YOUR BACK!" Bracelety reassured, her grin traveling from cheek to cheek. Ice Cube giggled nervously before continuing, "You know... I fought with a friend of mine a few years ago now"

"BOOK?" Bracelety asked her, "Y- Yeah, Book" Ice Cube continued, forgetting her fangirl probably knew a lot about her, "It was the one person I could truly call a close friend of mine... but she changed"

Ice Cube looked down, "I've felt so lost so many times ever since... I'm not... very close with anyone now..." she opened up to her, Bracelety looked deeply saddened by her words.

"And..." Ice Cube continued after a pause, "almost every time I feel like that... I hear you, in my head"

Bracelety's heart skipped a beat.

"I hear your voice... *'You're the best! You can do it!'* I remember you saying, and then I remember that someone out there is wishing me the best, even if I don't know them well... and it makes me feel better... every single time"

A bit of silence filled the air as the Ferris wheel's chair soared through the air, as far up as it could get. The voices of joy coming from below muffled.

"...Icy?" Bracelety asked, almost in a whisper. Ice Cube looked back at her to find her in the verge of tears, breathing irregularly.

"...Y- Yes?" Ice Cube asked with a frown, a bit emotional as well.

"...Can I hug you?" The fangirl asked in between sobs.

"...Please do" Her idol responded.

Without hesitation, Bracelety immediately leaned to her side and wrapped her arms around the cold contestant, giving her a warm, love-filled hug. Ice Cube leaned into her and embraced it, both their frowns slowly getting replaced with smiles as they sobbed in silence together.

After a while, Ice Cube opened her eyes and looked at Bracelety, who held onto her tightly, eyes firmly shut.

The one that wished her well every waking moment of her life.

That was her.

Ice Cube couldn't resist, the sentiment to act was as strong as her vengefulness usually was. She let herself get carried away and leaned further onto Bracelety, giving her a peck in the cheek.

Bracelety gasped and opened her eyes, looking at Ice Cube in pure shock, not letting her go.

Ice Cube giggled, *"Make sure to knock me down a spot or two on your priority list, alright?"*

"...Sounds good..."

A bit more silence prevailed before Bracelety spoke again, *"...And by the way..."*

"...Yeah?"

"...I love you!"

...

"...I love you too"

-

word count: 6,3k

YOOOOOOO

This is a re-release from AO3, I published this in there a week ago, now that I had time, motivation, and the balls to make a cover, I did so, not super proud of it, again, i'm no artist, but whatever works works

It was very nice to write something that wasn't ADFB, and very fun as well, if I ever make more I'll publish them on AO3 first (Since I don't need to make a cover for them) so consider me following there

If this is the first thing you've read from me, you might enjoy my longer work, Ask or Dare for a BFDI, it starts off a bit rocky though since i've been writing it since 2019

I hope you enjoyed, leave your vote and whatnot, it helps i think, bye bye :)